Sm 1

NCHSR

PROGRAM SOLICITATION

NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
AUG 7 1986
U. S. GOVT. PUBS.
DEPOSITORY 376

Small Grants Program in Health Services Research

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
National Center for Health Services Research
and Health Care Technology Assessment

HE 20.6512/9:

The National Center for Health Services Research and Health Care Technology Assessment (NCHSR) announces the availability of support for health services research through its Small Grants Program.

NCHSR seeks to create new knowledge and better understanding of the processes by which health services are made available, and how they may be provided more efficiently, more effectively, and at lower cost.

The Small Grants Program provides support for innovative approaches to significant problems in the delivery of health services, encourages well-designed descriptive and exploratory studies and pilot projects, and fosters the design and testing of new research methods and techniques.

A particular advantage of the program for the investigator is the shorter period for proposal review compared with larger grants. NCHSR will accept a small grant proposal anytime, and because of the modified review process, is able to obtain a recommendation from peer reviewers within about 90 days of receiving the proposal. NCHSR will notify applicants of funding decisions within another 30 days.

The program is administered under the provisions of Title 42, Chapter 1, Part 67, Subpart A, *Code of Federal Regulations*. Applications submitted for review under the Small Grants Program are limited to a project period of two years and may not exceed $50,000 in total direct costs for the entire project period.

This solicitation is effective until September 30, 1987.

Nature and purpose

The Small Grants Program supplements the NCHSR extramural research program by encouraging small-scale studies and analyses which can clarify significant issues, identify new research directions and opportunities, and develop better research designs and methods. The types of projects eligible for support include, but are not limited to:

- Descriptive studies that systematically characterize important problems in health care delivery, particularly those that explore new concepts and research strategies, search for unexpected consequences, or improve the design of more comprehensive assessments.
- Exploratory studies that examine the extent to which theories and techniques from other disciplines can be useful in health services research, seek data appropriate to an intended analysis, or gather the information needed to determine whether a definitive investigation is feasible.
- Methodologic studies directed toward improving the techniques used in health services research, such as comparisons of research designs, development of measurement instruments, or evaluation of analytical methods.

The NCHSR extramural research program currently emphasizes primary care/health promotion and disease prevention, technology assessment, the role of market forces in health care delivery, and studies relevant to the unique operational and policy issues faced by State and local governments. A detailed description of these research interests is contained in *NCHSR Program Note: NCHSR Extramural Research*, October 1985, available from the NCHSR Publications and Information Branch, 1-46 Park Building, Rockville, MD 20857; 301/443-4100. A copy is included in the application materials.

Eligibility

Academic institutions, agencies of State and local governments, nonprofit research or service organizations, and individuals are eligible to apply for grants under the NCHSR Small Grants Program.

Small Grants Program application procedures

Small Grants Program application materials are available from:

Chief, Review and Advisory Services Program (Small Grants)
National Center for Health Services Research
and Health Care Technology Assessment
1-52 Park Building
Rockville, MD 20857; 301/443-3091

Applications, which must include an original and 6 copies of Public Health Service Grant Application Form PHS 398, should be sent or delivered to the Chief, Review and Advisory Services Program. The mail address is shown above. The commercial delivery address is:

Chief, Review and Advisory Services Program (Small Grants)
National Center for Health Services Research
and Health Care Technology Assessment
1-52 Park Building
12420 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD 20852; 301/443-3091

Applicants should enter "NCHSR Small Grants Program" in item 2 on the front page of the form. Do not send Small Grants Program proposals to the National Institutes of Health's Division of Research Grants (DRG). A proposal submitted to DRG under this program cannot be assured of expedited review.

Small Grants Program review procedures

Applications will be returned which exceed the stipulated limits for budget ($50,000 total direct costs) or project period (two years), are incomplete, are not presented in a detailed and scientific manner, propose projects outside NCHSR funding authority, or are otherwise unresponsive to this solicitation.

Small Grants Program applications may be submitted at any time and are reviewed as they are received. NCHSR will notify applicants of a funding decision within 120 days after receipt of the proposal.

Reviewers include NCHSR staff members and other Federal and non-Federal experts who are chosen for their training and experience in particular scientific and technical fields, their understanding of health serv-

ices research and the application of research findings, and their special knowledge of the problems addressed by the proposals.

In evaluating a Small Grants Program proposal the reviewers take into account:

- Scientific and technical significance and originality
- Appropriateness of the methodology
- Availability of data, or the proposed plan to collect data required for the analyses
- Adequacy of the plan for organizing and carrying out the project
- Qualifications of the principal investigator and proposed staff
- Reasonableness of the proposed budget
- Suitability of the facilities and resources available to the applicant
- Adequacy of proposed measures to protect or to minimize adverse effects upon humans, animals, and the environment.

The reviewers may recommend that an application be approved, approved with specific modifications, deferred for additional information, or disapproved.

Decisions and awards

Funding decisions are based on the recommendations of the reviewers, the relative importance of the project with respect to NCHSR research objectives, and the availability of appropriated funds. Approval may be conditional upon the applicant making recommended changes, substantive or budgetary, in the proposal.

Grant conditions

The following conditions apply to all applications submitted for support under the NCHSR Small Grants Program:

1. The project period requested for any grant may not exceed 2 years.
2. The total direct costs requested may not exceed $50,000 for the entire project period.
3. No renewals are possible.

READEX FICHE best copy available

Allowable costs

Those expenses ordinarily supported under the terms of regular PHS research grants will be covered by the NCHSR Small Grants Program. Allowable costs include an investigator's salary, direct project expenses such as travel, data processing expenses and supplies, and indirect costs in the case of grants to organizations and institutions. Additional information on allowable costs is contained in the *Public Health Service Grants Policy Statement*.

NCHSR research grants are described in the *Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance* (CFDA) No. 13.226, Health Services Research and Development Grants. The review requirements of Executive Order 12372 are not applicable to NCHSR grant programs.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Public Health Service
National Center for Health Services Research
and Health Care Technology Assessment
1-46 Park Building
Rockville, MD 20857

DHHS Publication No. (PHS) 86-3401
February 1986